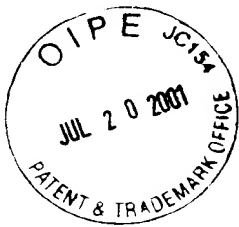


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner : Phuong T. Bui  
Group 1638  
Applicants Bernd Müller-Röber et al.  
Application No. 08/702,718 Confirmation No.: 7038  
Filed March 19, 1997  
For PROCESSES FOR INHIBITING AND INDUCING  
FLOWER FORMATION IN PLANTS

New York, New York  
July 17, 2001

Hon. Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This is in response to the January 18, 2001 Office Action in the above-identified application.

Applicants submit concurrently herewith a Petition Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) and the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(3) to extend the time for replying to the Office Action for a period of 3 months, up to and including July 18, 2001.

Prior to examining this application, kindly amend the application as follows: